

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCI-06 OST-04 NSF-04 OIC-04 AF-10

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TAGS: EGEN, TGEN, ECONSOC, UN

SUBJ: COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR

DEVELOPMENT (CSTD): MEETING OF INFORMAL

WORKING GROUP

1. AN INFORMAL, OPEN- ENDED WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN MEETING THIS WEEK TO PREPARE A WORKING PAPER ON FUTURE PROCEDURES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CSTD. CONVENED AND CHAIRED BY THE AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE AT THIS CSTD SESSION (HARTLEY), THE GROUP CONSISTS OF A " CORE" DRAFTING GROUP MADE UP OF DELEGATES FROM AUSTRALIA, GHANA, INDIA, MEXICO, UK, AND US; TOGETHER WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER DELEGATES WHO HAVE SHOWN AN INTEREST IN INTERACTING WITH THIS " CORE" GROUP. A PRELIMINARY DRAFT PAPER HAS BEEN PREPARED AND MADE AVAILABLE TO DELEGATIONS ATTENDING THE MEETING (COPY MISFAXED TO DEPT). THIS DRAFT SUGGESTS CERTAIN CONSIDERATIONS THE COMMITTEE MIGHT BEAR IN MIND IN CARRYING OUT ITS FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS ITS INFORMATIONAL NEEDS; ITS INTERACTION WITH OTHER UN BODIES, INCLUDING ACASTD; THE NATURE OF ITS DELIBERATIONS AND THE ROLE THE COMMITTEE SEES FOR ITSELF; AND THE NATURE OF INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES, IF ANY. THE DRAFT THEN VERY BRIEFLY SUMMARIZES RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE (E. G. ACASTD, OTHER UN BODIES, INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS, EXPERT PANELS, SECRETARIAT STUDIES AND PAPERS).
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BASED ON THESE CONSIDERATIONS, RESOURCES, AND MECHANISMS, TENTATIVE EXAMPLES ARE THEN PROPOSED OF THE

KINDS OF COMMITTEE ACTIONS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN. THESE INCLUDE (A) COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION AT THIS SESSION OF IMPORTANT AGENDA ITEMS FOR ITS NEXT SESSION; (B) ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP TO MAINTAIN AN OVERVIEW OF THE FULL RANGE OF THE COMMITTEE' S ACTIVITIES DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD, INCLUDING AN ASSESSMENT OF RECENT PROGRESS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ESPECIALLY AS IT APPLIES TO DEVELOPMENT ; (C) ESTABLISHMENT OF OPEN- MINDED, PROBLEM- ORIENTED WORKING GROUPS TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC SUBJECTS, INCLUDING MULTIDISCIPLINARY, MULTIAGENCY ACTIVITIES NOW INADEQUATELY COORDINATED IN THE UN SYSTEM; (D) REQUESTING THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO PREPARE PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE, FOR EXAMPLE (1) A PAPER CLARIFYING THE FUNCTIONS, ACTIVITIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL COMPONENTS OF THE UN SYSTEM IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; (2) A PAPER SUM- MARIZING THE PROGRAMMATIC IMPLEMENTATION TO DATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, ESPECIALLY PARAGRAPHS 60-64; AND (3) A PAPER ELABORATING DRAFT GUIDELINES AND MODUS OPERANDI OF THE COMMITTEE; (E) RE- QUESTING ACASTD TO PROVIDE THE COMMITTEE WITH TECHNICAL REVIEWS, EVALUATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO SPECIFIC COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS OUTLINED IN ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE, E/ RES /1715(LIII), E. G. FUNCTIONS 2(G) AND 2('); AND (F) SUGGESTED MEETINGS OF EXPERT PANELS OR INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS IN CONJUNCTION WITH MEETINGS OF ACASTD OR ITS REGIONAL GROUPS.

2. THE DRAFT WAS DISCUSSED AT AN EVENING MEETING ON MARCH 21 OF THE " CORE" GROUP, JOINED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ARGENTINA, CANADA, INDONESIA, SPAIN, AND THE UN SECRETARIAT (GRESFOLD). THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FORMAT OF THE DRAFT. A WIDE- RANGING, FRANK DISCUSSION WAS CARRIED OUT IN A FRIENDLY, POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE. THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THAT ACASTD SHOULD BE A MAJOR GENERATOR OF IDEAS FOR THE CSTD. AND IN TURN THAT THE CSTD WOULD SEEK TO USE ACASTD FOR IM- PORTANT SPECIFIC TASKS. SCHUWEILER (US) EXPRESSED THE UNCLASSIFIED

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VIEW THAT STANDING IN THE WAY OF FULLER APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT IS A COMPLEX OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS, AND THAT THERE ARE WIDESPREAD DIFFERENCES AMONG COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN THE PERCEPTION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THESE CONSTRAINTS AND OF THE INTERRELATIONSHIP AND RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE FACTORS INVOLVED. HE SUGGESTED THAT AS A STEP TOWARD REDUCING THESE DIFFERENCES, THE SECRETARY GENERAL BE CALLED UPON TO LEAD AND COORDINATE A STUDY DIRECTED

TOWARD ELICITING PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, THE VARIOUS UN BODIES, AND OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AS APPROPRIATE. THIS INFO WOULD THEN BE ANALYZED BY THE SECRETARIAT, WITH ASSISTANCE OF ACASTD, AND THE FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION BY CSTD AT ITS NEXT SESSION.

3. THE CHAIRMAN ASKED THAT THESE VIEWS, TOGETHER WITH OTHERS PRESENTED AT THE INFORMAL MEETING, BE INCORPORATED IN A REVISED DRAFT WORKING PAPER FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THE GROUP, WHICH WILL MEET NEXT ON MARCH 24.

PHILLIPS

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